



friday, december 7, 2012

thecollegian

INDEPENDENT VOICE FOR KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY



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Tomorrow:
High: 54 °F
Low: 35 °F



Sunday:
High: 36 °F
Low: 13 °F

03

Wii Boo
The Wii U console didn't live up to this reviewer's expectation

04

Free to (dis)believe
Our writer says the rights of an arrested atheist weren't upheld

FG

Your survival guide
The Collegian Finals Guide has tips to help you succeed next week

Indoor track season begins today in Ahearn Field House

Mark Kern
sports editor

The indoor track season begins today in Ahearn Field House, as the Wildcats host the Carol Robinson Winter Pentathlon and KSU All-Comers track meet today and tomorrow.

The action will get underway at 10 a.m. with the men's and women's pentathlon, featuring former Wildcat track members, including NCAA outdoor champion Ryann Kraus.

There are big expectations for the Wildcats this season, es-

pecially the women's team. According to Track & Field News, the K-State incoming women's recruiting class ranks sixth in the country, with no other Big 12 Conference teams in the top 10.

The men have big expectations as well, as they bring back Erik Kynard, who won a silver medal at the 2012 Olympic games. For all of the accolades Kynard has won during his time at K-State, the one to elude him is the NCAA indoor championship, where he has finished third and fourth the past two years.

This will be the team's only

meet for awhile, as they will not participate again until Jan. 11, 2013, in Lawrence.

Admission to the meets is free. Fans are asked to enter at the east doors of Ahearn Field House and use the balcony seating.

Evert Nelson | Collegian

Form is everything for the distance throw as senior thrower **Ryan Johnson** demonstrates on Feb. 17 in Ahearn Field House during the KSU Open. Johnson threw a distance of 18.34 meters at the meet.



Social media used to discuss flu prevention



Evert Nelson | Collegian

Faryad Sahneh, graduate student in electrical engineering, sits at his desk in Rathbone Hall Wednesday afternoon. Sahneh has recently been involved in research looking into social media websites, such as Facebook, as a way of communicating about disease awareness.

Evert Nelson
staff writer

With data from the Center of Disease Control (CDC) pointing to an increase in influenza activity which started in November, raising awareness for potential outbreaks or epidemics is going viral.

Research modeling done by Faryad Sahneh, graduate student in electrical engineering, is looking at social media as a new way of reducing and preventing diseases, like influenza, from spreading.

"It's a way of exchanging information that does not involve any physical contact," Sahneh said.

Results from surveying college students, in a K-State press release, about social media indicate that most of the information students receive is over social media sites, mainly Facebook.

"What we are more focusing on is how this information exchange can promote healthy behaviors," Sahneh said.

A main behavior Sahneh talked

"What we are more focusing on is how this information exchange can promote healthy behaviors."

Faryad Sahneh
graduate student in electrical engineering

about was flu vaccinations.

Social media sites, such as Facebook or Twitter, are being used extensively by people to share information quickly. Sahneh hopes that when someone writes a post about getting their flu shot, more people are likely to get their vaccination as well since they have a more personal connection to the person who posted.

Sahneh says that with all the advances made in the medical field, sharing information about these advances is becoming ever more important.

"Social media is very helpful in spreading the word," said Sakshi Pahwa, graduate student in electrical engineering.

Pahwa is familiar with the modeling Sahneh is doing and feels it is

really going to help in the real world.

Will Jones, freshman in industrial engineering, said he likes the idea of sharing information about diseases through social sites but feels it needs to be done in the right manner.

"Facebook and Twitter are two of the most popular websites on the internet," Jones said, "It just seems to make sense that anything...especially if it's for the good of the public, be published on the most popular social sites."

Although Jones feels these social media sites are a great way of spreading information, he would like to see a different method used to make the information less like a spam ad and more of a resource.

The project Sahneh is working on involves other Kansas State research-

ers as well. Caterina Scoglio, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, has been advising Sahneh throughout the research.

Scoglio said having multiple collaborators from fields such as mathematics, psychology and human ecology, helps the whole team look into as many aspects of research as possible.

The next step in the research process, Scoglio said, is looking over the data for errors and working on interconnected networks of communities working with other communities on spreading information.

For K-State students, spouses, faculty, staff and family members looking for flu vaccines, Lafene Health Center is offering walk-in hours to get vaccinated on Dec. 6, 13 and 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$15 for students and \$20 for others.

Subleasing common issue for students

Hana Johnson
contributing writer

With the traditional school year lasting August through May, students who sign 12-month leases are often left to find a way to pay rent in the summer. That is, unless they find someone to take their spot for the summer holidays.

Most leases for off-campus housing run from either June through May or August through July.

"I signed a 12-month lease for

"I won't be here over the summer, so I wanted to make sure that I found someone. I didn't want to have to pay my rent while I wasn't living here."

Lyndi Stucky
junior in advertising

my house this year," said Brette Baker, junior in public relations. "We moved in at the beginning of June, and the lease ends at the end of May."

For some students who live in Manhattan year round, 12-month leases are ideal because they stay over the summer to work or take classes. For others, however, year-long leases leave them forced to find someone else to take their place while they're gone during the summer.

"I won't be here over the summer," said Lyndi Stucky, junior in advertising. "So I wanted to make sure that I found someone [to sublease]. I didn't want to have to pay my rent while I wasn't living here."

With the large quantity of off-campus housing in Manhattan and the exodus of many students during the summer, it is sometimes difficult for students to find tenants to sublease. Baker didn't have a problem, but did recognize that many students do.

"It wasn't difficult to find a sublesser," Baker said. "Someone actually approached me about it. I think it was lucky because I was just planning on leaving town and paying my rent. I know that sometimes people have trouble finding people to take their places."

So, while subleasing can sometimes be difficult for students, some said that, if done correctly, it can have many benefits. One such benefit is alleviating the financial burden of paying rent for a place where you're not even living.

"It will be really nice to not have to pay my rent over break," Baker said. "That will put a little bit more money back into my pocket."

To be a successful sublesser, there are a few things one can do to make the experience easy and painless. According to an article on subleaser.com, choosing the right tenant makes all the difference.

"Choosing responsible tenants is the key to a good sublease," the article said. "There are some basic guidelines you can follow when screening tenants."

College students who sublease may not always know how to go about the process successfully. Ian Tolson, graduate student in accounting, explained the importance of caution when subleasing. "The ideal situation is that you find someone you trust so you don't have to worry about it," Tolson said. "You just have to have clarity before hand."

While written agreements are often used in subleasing situations, they may not always be necessary as long as the tenant and sublesser have a mutual understanding.

"I mean, as long as you tell them 'you will pay for something if you put a hole in the wall' and they understand, you should be fine," Tolson said. "Sometimes, because you're so desperate to find someone to pay your rent, you find a friend of a friend. I think it is important to have some form of agreement so that you're on the same page."

Editor's Note: This article was completed as an assignment for a class in the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Student advisers offer guidance to first-year students

Zach Foley
staff writer

The K-State First program is designed to "create an outstanding university experience for every first-year student" according to their website. The program is organized using CAT Communities, small groups of 22 students who take the same three classes: two general education courses and a connections course.

The connections course contains only the students in the CAT Community and is taught by a professor who can offer personalized attention due to the small class size and with the assistance of an undergraduate learning assistant.

These undergraduate learning assistants also serve as student advisers, older students who guide freshmen through their first year. The goal of the K-State First program is to keep students enrolled in future semesters.

"K-State First saved my college experience," said Danny Foster, resident learning adviser and junior in English education. "That's why I wanted to [become a student adviser]: to save someone else's."

The job of an adviser like Foster is to organize social and academic events to help students get ahead in classes and meet new people. Other responsibilities include lesson planning and

"The best part of having a student adviser is that he is there whenever I need him. If I ever need something, he's just down the hall — not like a regular adviser where you have to make an appointment."

Emily Hegemann
freshman in kinesiology

meeting with teachers to discuss the progress of their advisees.

To get the job you must be selected, turn in a resume and class schedule

and then interview with both K-State First and the professor you will be working closely with.

"[My job is to] make sure students have someone to connect with," Foster said.

The CAT Community that Foster leads also features a residential component. Foster and all of his advisees live in the same dorm. There are 13 total CAT Communities, only two of

which live together. "The best part of having a student adviser is that he is there whenever I need him," said Emily Hegemann,

freshman in kinesiology. "If I ever need something, he's just down the hall — not like a regular adviser where you have to make an appointment."

Foster said that having students come to him for advice is the most rewarding part of his job and that he loves to see his advisees succeed.

"Having a student adviser was very helpful," said Katlin Hagedorn, freshman in elementary education. "[K-State First] helped me get into the college groove and get to know all the other new freshman."

To those interested in becoming student mentors, Foster advised not to do it just to bolster your resume.

"Yes it looks good on a resume, but the personal satisfaction of helping is why you should do it," Foster said. "It has also taught me how to quickly switch from social to professional mode when I see one of the students I advise. It is a job, and you do have to be serious about it."



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ACROSS

1 Dutch earthen-ware

6 Ado blood-stained

13 Unilateral

14 Rhodo-dendron cousin

15 Busy

16 Small plateau

17 Rocketry org.

19 Started

20 Group of actors

22 Omega preceder

24 Second person

27 Church furniture

29 Lecher's look

32 Toady

35 Tran-scending (Pref.)

36 Mine car

37 Ball holder

38 Hooter

40 Sans escort

42 Tablet

44 Inaugura-tion

46 Mine entrance

50 Captivate

52 Intertwine

54 Swear (to)

55 Like thunder

56 Pro-longed attacks

57 Put into words

3 Light purple

4 Doctor's due

5 Area near the apse

6 Feathery neckwear

7 Open a bottle

8 Collection

9 Stephenie Meyer series

10 Wash

11 Watched

12 School of whales

18 If all else fails

21 Zoo favorite

23 "Help!"

24 Thanks-giving veggie

25 Unclose

26 Modern

28 Spreads thickly

30 Shelter

31 Preceding

33 Legisla-tion

34 "— Little Teapot"

39 Un-tethered

41 Greek conso-nant

42 Carrots' partners

43 Con

45 — and letters

47 Plastic user's concern

48 Capri or Wight

49 Biblical posses-sive

51 "Family Guy" daughter

53 Enthusi-ast

Solution time: 27 mins.

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Yesterday's answer 12-8

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12-8 CRYPTOQUIP

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B N Q P X V L M U Z N D R G D N U U N

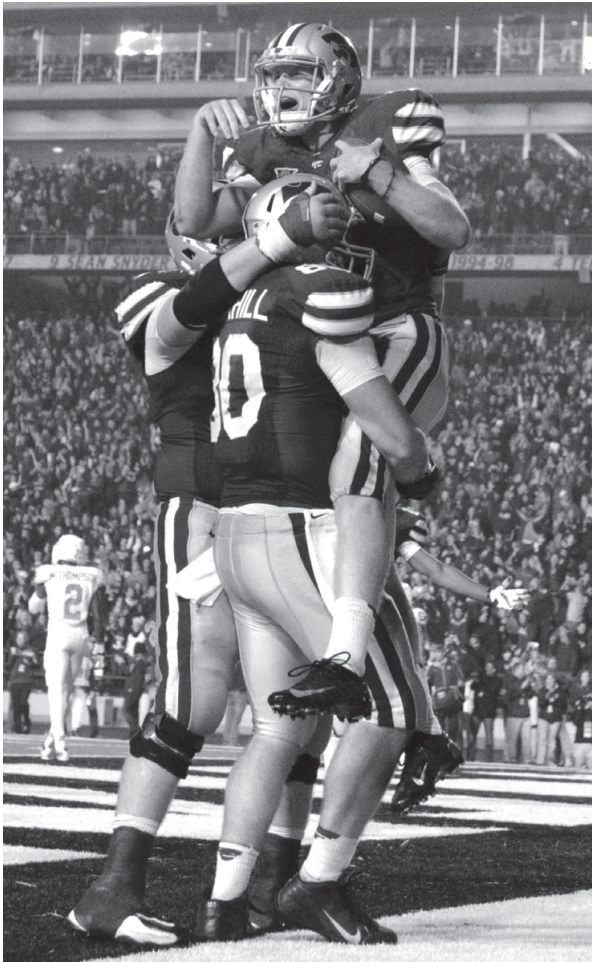
B O Z U U G O R F Q Z B G L K L F .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PHRASE ABOUT KIDS' CHEWING GUM THAT FOLKS MAY INTERPRET TWO DIFFERENT WAYS: A BUBBLE ENTENDRE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals M

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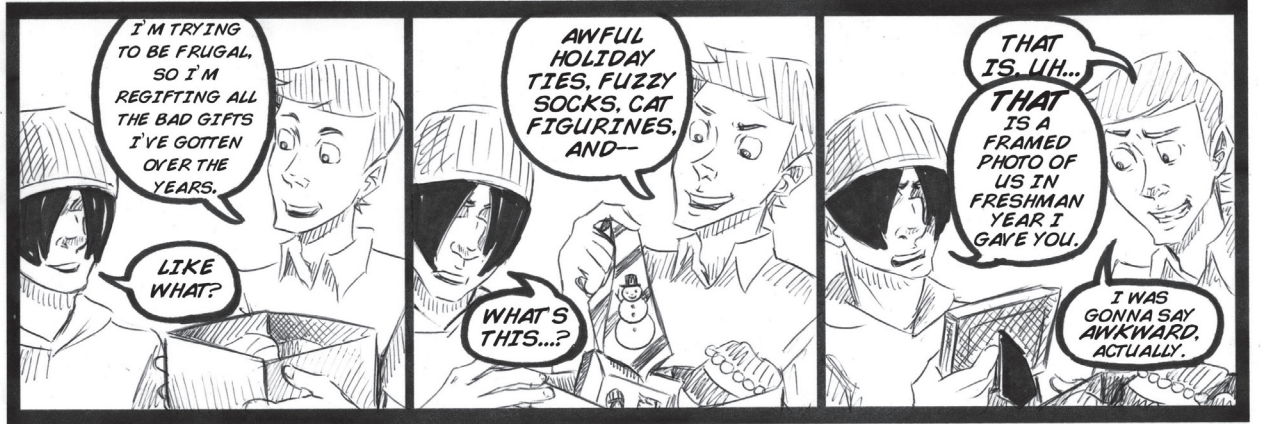


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Logan's Run | By Erin Logan



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Letters may be rejected if they contain abusive content, lack timeliness, contain vulgarity, profanity or falsehood, promote personal and commercial announcements, repeat comments of letters printed in other issues or contain attachments.

The Collegian does not publish open letters, third-party letters or letters that have been sent to other publications or people.

CORRECTIONS

There were two errors in the Dec. 6 issue.

The front page photos for the story titled "Family band performs traditional carols," were taken by Parker Robb.

The comic on page 2 was "For the Win" by Parker Wilhelm.

The Collegian regrets these errors.

If you see something that should be corrected or clarified, call managing editor Darrington Clark at 785-532-6556 or email news@kstatecollegian.com.

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EVENING COLLEGE SPRING 2013

16-WEEK TERM | January 22–May 10

2-Dimensional Design ART 100 17073	Fundamentals of Jewelry Design and Processes ART 300 17067	Early Childhood FSHS 310 16937	Emergent Literacy FSHS 566 16948
Art Careers Seminar ART 105 17070	BFA Exhibition Practicum ART 410 17060, 17080	Manual Communication FSHS 415 TBA	Professional Seminar in FSHS FSHS 585 16966
Drawing I ART 190 17058, 17062	Baroque Art History ART 622 17126	Exceptional Development in Early Childhood FSHS 428 17132	Capstone Experience in Family Studies and Human Services FSHS 590 16965
3-Dimensional Design ART 200 17049	Advanced Printmaking ART 635 17127	Middle Childhood and Adolescence FSHS 506 17063	Core Conflict Resolution FSHS 751 16946
Drawing II ART 210 17059	Biology of Aging BIOL 404 16892	Human Development and Aging FSHS 510 TBA	Italian for Travelers ITAL 105 17189
Water Media I ART 220 17065	Intro to Child Life FSHS 300 TBA	Core Conflict Resolution FSHS 531 16950	Principles of Exercise Training KIN 398 16121
Ceramics for Non-Majors ART 300 17075			

12-WEEK TERM | January 29–April 25

Business and Economic Statistics I STAT 350 16461	Business and Economic Statistics II STAT 351 16464
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8-WEEK TERM | January 22–March 13

Accounting for Business Operations ACCTG 231 16087	Principles of Macroeconomics ECON 110 16122	College Algebra MATH 100 16105	Sociology of the Criminal Justice System SOCIO 361 16610
Arabic I ARAB 181 10005	Principles of Microeconomics ECON 120 16118	Plane Trigonometry MATH 150 16092	Social Organization SOCIO 440 16611
Public Speaking I COMM 106 16701	Earth in Action GEOL 100 17173	Lifespan Personality Development PSYCH 520 16967	Introduction to Women's Studies WOMST 105 16082
Public Speaking II COMM 321 16085	Business Law II MANGT 392 16089	Introduction to Sociology SOCIO 211 16615	

8-WEEK TERM | March 14–May 10

Accounting for Investing and Financing ACCTG 241 16086	Intermediate Macroeconomics ECON 510 16559	Introduction to Moral Philosophy PHILO 130 16156	Police and Society SOCIO 362 16608
Arabic II ARAB 182 10004	Intermediate Microeconomics ECON 520 16590	General Psychology PSYCH 110 16088	Introduction to Social Interaction SOCIO 450 16612
Public Speaking I COMM 106 16702	Earth through Time GEOL 102 17186	Social Psychology PSYCH 535 16964	Introduction to Women's Studies WOMST 105 16083
Public Speaking II COMM 321 16704	College Algebra MATH 100 16106	Psychological Research on the "Humorous" Condition PSYCH 590 16963	Women and Islam WOMST 585 16783
Communicating with Confidence COMM 450 16792	General Calculus and Linear Algebra MATH 205 16109	Introduction to Sociology SOCIO 211 16613	

2-WEEK OFFERINGS

Introduction to Information Technology CIS 101 16101 January 22–February 2	Introduction to Microcomputer Database Applications CIS 103 16094 February 19–March 2	Introduction to Information Technology CIS 101 16093 March 26–April 6	Introduction to Microcomputer Database Applications CIS 103 16100 April 20–30
Introduction to Microcomputer Spreadsheet Applications CIS 102 16102 February 5–16	Introduction to Microcomputer Word Processing Applications CIS 104 16099 March 5–16	Introduction to Microcomputer Spreadsheet Applications CIS 102 16098 April 9–18	Introduction to Microcomputer Word Processing Applications CIS 104 16097 May 2–11

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KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Division of Continuing Education

Ugly holiday sweater phenomenon continues to spread



Mollie Schaefer

With winter in full swing, it is time to once again prepare for the emergence of one of the holiday season's predominant claims to fame — the ugly holiday sweater. For a garment so tacky, these sweaters somehow remain a popular tradition among men and women alike.

An unavoidable feature of the season, ugly sweaters are being sought after and worn for reasons differing from their earnest past.

They can be identified by their obnoxious overuse of holiday reds and greens and ridiculously large portrayals of winter scenes and questionable patterns. You can't forget the bonus add-ons including, but not limited to, jingle bells, sequins, felt appliques, bejewels, buttons, tassels, pom poms, faux fur and sometimes even blinking lights. The combination of these aspects make for an explosive holiday eyesore that demand attention and compel holiday cheer.

Several mysteries surround this trend, beginning with the obvious question, "where did it originate?" Since they seem to be far from the ultimate winter fashion statement, it is easy to wonder where ugly holiday sweaters got their start. Tracing the roots of the sweater has proven to be easier said than done.

According to a Dec. 18, 2001, Chicago Tribune article by Greg Morago, "It's not like you can open any number of scholarly dissertations on fashion and find an entry for 'people who deliberately want to look like absurd

members of the Family Kringle' or footnotes for 'women who knit too much.'"

As accurate as this statement is, it is not to say that there aren't ideas circulating with regard to the birth of this style oddity.

Since knitting patterns of snowy pines date back to the '50s, it is clear that ugly holiday sweaters have been a part of our lives for quite some time. In a Dec. 22, 2011, Time article by Allison Berries, she notes that although the sweater as a genuine article of clothing presented itself in the late 19th century, repulsive holiday renderings of the garment only began to make an appearance in more recent decades.

In her Dec. 20, 2010, Wall Street Journal article, Rachel Dodes elaborates on that claim, stating that before claiming their status as a big hit in the mass market, the earliest forms of holiday sweaters were homemade. She goes on to add that since gaining popularity, they have been selling without fail.

With some light shed on the origin of these sweaters, the next logical question is, "what accounts for their recent surge in fame?"

The popularity of ugly holiday sweaters faded as the '90s approached, but has seen a resurgence in the past decade. In her Dec. 22, 2010, Time article, writer Megan Friedman says that the resurrection of awful Christmas is in direct correlation with the current ugly holiday sweater party craze seen among young people.

Ugly holiday sweater parties are a cherished holiday cultural phenomenon. The parties can be most simply defined as get togethers dedicated to showing off the best in tacky sweaters. Though insulting to fashion's most essential rules, ugly sweater parties are all the rage. By requiring that guests wear sweaters of the visually repulsive variety, they

encourage an entire industry to promote the celebration of tackiness. A tradition this strange must have a traceable origin.

Vancouver, Canada, is arguably home to the party that pioneered it all. Worldwide popularity of the ugly holiday sweater party is undeniable, but according to Chris Boyd and Jordan Birch in bciving's Dec. 6 article by Jenn Laidlaw, Vancouver deserves the official position as the ugly sweater's place of origin.

Official trendsetters Boyd and Birch say that their one goal was to make the tackiest, most spirited Christmas party imaginable come to life. Their efforts have not only resulted in an event hosted annually in Vancouver's Commodore Ballroom, but also the establishment of a beloved tradition and its spread to the States.

Ugly sweater fever is currently sweeping the nation, and not just in the form of parties. Websites

are springing up everywhere to both sell sweaters and suggest DIY ideas. Sweater contests have made their debut in various bars and offices wanting to play host to friendly rivalry.

Retailers are selling winter has-beens. In addition, the appearance of visually offensive holiday sweaters in thrift stores, on the runways and in mainstream fashion is impossible to ignore.

Whether or not it amounts to a fashion emergency, the ugly holiday sweater has earned a lasting place in many

wardrobes. Adoration for holiday sweaters and the festivities surrounding them can be attributed, among other things, to high esteem in recent decades.

What used to be an essential in your grandma's closet is now a seasoned demonstration of holiday cheer and an excuse to party. This trend may only present itself once a year, but it grows in popularity with each season.

Mollie Schaefer is a senior in print journalism. Please send comments to edge@kstatecollegian.com.



Illustration by Kat LoCoco

Wii U launch less successful than expected due to lack of stock, glitches



Cully Galloway

The Nintendo Wii U launched on Nov. 18, bearing the burden of transcending the gaming industry into the realm of next-generation consoles. Its launch, however, has been far from the glorious ushering in of a new regime that many hoped it would be. Nintendo's new console has been marred with issues, technical and

otherwise.

First of all, the new system suffers from a severe lack of supply. It is sold out virtually everywhere, but despite that, its launch week was less impressive than its predecessor, the Nintendo Wii. According to a Nov. 26 Gamespot article by Eddie Makuch, the Wii U sold 400,000 units during its first week, compared to the Wii's 600,000.

The Wii U ended up being outsold on Black Friday by both the Xbox 360 and the PlayStation 3. The PS3 sold roughly 125,000 more units, where the Xbox 360 saw almost double Nintendo's sales at a total of 750,000 units moved, according to a Nov. 29 Reuters article by

Malathi Nayak.

This is due in no small part to the lack of stock available in stores. Limited supply has always been an issue with new consoles, but for the Wii U this seems like a terrible oversight. In a holiday season where Nintendo has the lone new console, it's all but certain that the system will sell as fast as they can get it on the shelves, as people are always going to want to try out the newest technology.

But shortage of supply isn't the only difficulty plaguing the new console. Perhaps most problematic is the issue of ruined consoles. Michael Nunez of International Digital Times reports in a Nov. 29 ar-

ticle that upon turning on the Wii U for the first time, the user is required to download an update that takes roughly one to two hours to complete.

If anything should happen to stop the download during this time (loss of Internet, powering down the console, etc.), the system is ruined. This issue is fortunately covered by the 12 month warranty that is standard for the Wii U, but it is still far from convenient.

Beyond that, consumers have complained about a number of other technical issues. A quick Internet search reveals forums full of defects and unfulfilled guarantees: promised web features were released late and have to be

downloaded onto your system, surround sound can be dysfunctional and so on.

On top of the problems with the console itself, some consumers feel let down by the core feature of the console: the game pad.

"If you were interested in the Wii U for the innovation the GamePad could bring — or simply a brand new hardcore gaming experience — then you might want to hold on for a bit," said Adam Barnes, a writer for *nowgamer.com*, in a Nov. 30 article.

The Wii U will undoubtedly be successful; an army of nostalgia seekers and people hoping this is the new era of gaming will ensure that. But I

imagine that after a while, this new console will develop a fiercely loyal niche market, just as the Wii did, and have little impact beyond that.

To me, the gaming industry doesn't need new gimmicks such as a second screen and a new console. It needs new and innovative games to propel it forward. The fact that two 7-year-old systems, such as the Xbox 360 and Playstation 3, still sell hundreds of thousands of units every holiday season seems to be evidence that people aren't exactly sick of the current models.

Cully Galloway is a junior in English. Please send comments to edge@kstatecollegian.com

National Novel Writing Month challenge proves worth stress, hard work



Jeana Lawrence

Throughout November, writers from around the world were writing furiously in an attempt to complete the 50,000 word challenge of National Novel Writing Month, or NaNoWriMo.

For those of you unfamiliar with NaNoWriMo, it is basically a word marathon. You have to write 50,000 words by the end of 30 days, which totals to about 1,666 words written each day. That's like writing a paper for class every single day. It's exhausting and torturous. So why do hundreds of thousands of people go through it every year? Well, it's actually fun and you get something out of the experience.

I had heard of NaNoWriMo before, but never really thought I could finish it. November is just a really busy month. Think about all the exams, assignments and papers you've had over the last month and add 50,000 more words to your workload. It seems almost impossible.

Plus, I am not the most organized person in the world. Usually, when I do begin a

story, or even a paper, I have to outline every single thing. I need to know what will happen next so that when I start typing I don't have to stop and think about it. I can just keep the motion going.

With my impromptu decision to join NaNoWriMo, I really didn't have time to plan things out like I would have liked. I barely had an idea when I started — an idea that grew as the month progressed.

Thus, when I started on Nov. 1, I decided not to freak out about my lack of planning and just go with whatever popped into my head. If you've ever had an experience filling a paper with fluff to meet the word requirement, you may know what I mean when I say that for the first week, I sat and stared at my blank Word document.

Nothing really came to me and whatever I did type was awful. I was dreading the day

when NaNoWriMo ended. I would have this 50,000 word novel that sucked and needed either major revision or to be thrown out the window.

However, as the first week passed, I found that writing every night actually helped. I was keeping a nice pace with the 1,666 words (more or less) every day. I was feeling good and confident that I could do this; that I could and would finish.

Then school decided to smack me in the face.

The next week was bad in terms of how much I got done on NaNoWriMo. As students, we have a lot of responsibilities, and not just in the classroom. We have clubs and meetings to go to and friends to hang out with. Balancing homework and extracurricular activities is difficult.

So, the second week of November was slower than the first week. I did not write

as much as I would have liked, but I kept promising myself that I would write over break to catch up.

Well, that did not happen either. I did manage to write and my story was starting to take shape and actually sound interesting. I was excited to write. But when you're at home you want to relax and maybe watch some mindless television because you actually have time to sit and breathe. While I did write over break, it wasn't as much as I would have liked.

The end of November was looming over me as I came back to K-State. My story was only half finished and, so far, I had only begun to think of where the plot was going, and it probably wasn't far enough to reach 50,000 words.

You know the "fluff" that you put in papers for school? Well, I started adding more fluff just to increase my word count. I started writing 3,000 words

every night instead of a mere 1,666. Staying up until two or three in the morning makes one put crazy things in their NaNoWriMo project. I think by this point I was just typing whatever popped into my head, while barely keeping my eyes open.

Did I finish then? No, unfortunately. I was still only at 30,000 words and the story was still taking more shape and form as I progressed. I mentioned at the beginning of this article that NaNoWriMo is fun, and probably from my description of how my month went, it might not look that way. But really it was.

When I was writing, it was a time to simply forget homework and school and focus on my story. My story became a place where I could unload everything that had happened that day. That's a really nice feeling. Other people may have another way to do this. Maybe

you go running. Maybe you hang out with friends. Maybe you read a book or watch television. I just wrote.

Not only does it feel nice, but it is fun to do. NaNoWriMo actually gives you something. No, not a prize, though those who do finish are recognized on the official website, *NaNoWriMo.org*. It is something else much more precious, as cheesy as that sounds.

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Jeana Lawrence is a sophomore in journalism and mass communications and English. Please send comments to edge@kstatecollegian.com.

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Atheist’s arrest infringes on freedom of religion



Michelle Bertran

An atheist in Kentucky has been arrested for not believing in God.

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution clearly grants U.S. citizens freedom of religion, yet this Kentucky man faces 12 months in jail for violating a law that is a clear violation of the constitutional separation between church and state.

Kentucky’s homeland security law states, “The safety and security of the Commonwealth cannot be achieved apart from reliance upon Almighty God as set forth in the public speeches and proclamations of American Presidents, including Abraham Lincoln’s historic March 30, 1863, presidential proclamation urging Americans to pray and fast during one of the most dangerous hours in American history, and the text of President John F. Kennedy’s November 22, 1963, national security speech which concluded: ‘For as was written long ago: ‘Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.’”

Baptist minister and Democratic state representative Tom Riner sponsored the law. Riner has been a state representative for 26 years.

Last week, American atheists submitted a petition to the U.S. Supreme Court for the law to be reviewed. I think this is a great move on their part, but it shouldn’t take a petition to the Supreme Court to block a law so clearly opposed to the principles of the constitution. The law, which first surfaced in 2006, never should have been passed. Someone should have stood up for his or her beliefs before now.

The United States of America takes pride in being the land of the free, but are we really the land of the free if people are getting arrested for not following the dominant religion? Will Buddhists or Muslims living in Kentucky soon be arrested as well?

It is sad that this antiquated form of

religious discrimination is occurring in our country in 2012, as opposed to earlier times when people were much more conservative.

In a Nov. 24 article on readingsupportednews.org by Laura Gottesdiener, Riner claimed that the division between church and state violates America’s fundamental and historical stance as a nation “under God.”

“We believe dependence on God is essential ... What the founding fathers stated and what every president has stated, is their reliance and recognition of Almighty God, that’s what we’re doing,” Riner said.

Riner’s stance regarding religion’s place in politics has been well-documented throughout his career as a state representative. He has long advocated for the placement of the Ten Commandments in public buildings and, in a Dec. 15, 2011, Fox News article by Douglas Kennedy, Riner stated, “That’s why our national Motto is ‘In God We Trust’ — because (God) is our ultimate source of trust.”

I understand where Riner is coming from, considering the Pledge of Allegiance does end with, “One nation under God...” Still, that does not mean that U.S. citizens don’t have the right to practice whatever religion they believe in. The phrase “One nation under God,” is followed by “indivisible, with liberty and justice, for all.”

Furthermore, modern technology and science will only increase atheism in America. People will always accept or interpret scientific facts in their own ways, and the question of humanity’s creation will forever be debated by scholars and theologians alike. And there is nothing wrong with that.

Why punish someone for not believing in something when it’s not backed, in his/her opinion, by sufficient evidence, or for being a free thinker?

People need to face the fact that not everyone is going to believe in God; not everyone is heterosexual; and no one has the exact same morals and beliefs.

Michelle Bertran is a sophomore in journalism and mass communications. Please send comments to opinion@kstatecollegian.com.

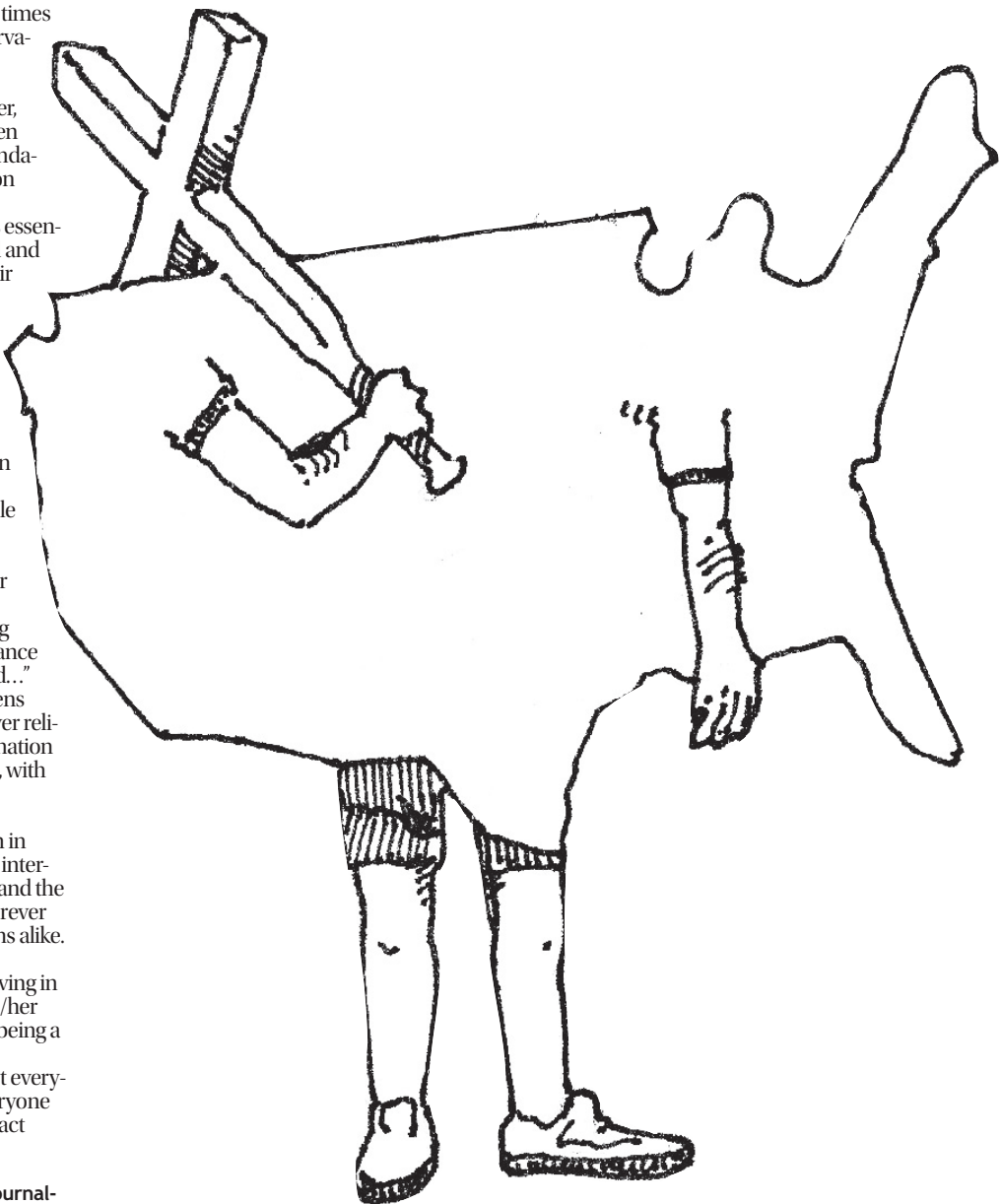


Illustration by Chris Sanford

Discrimination based on sexual orientation wrong, people must open minds



Robin Helget

What would you do if one day you woke up to a knock on your door from your landlord telling you that he’s kicking you out of the apartment complex because of your sexual orientation? How would you survive if you went to work one morning, where you’ve been excelling for nine years, only to find out that you have been fired because your boss doesn’t like gay people?

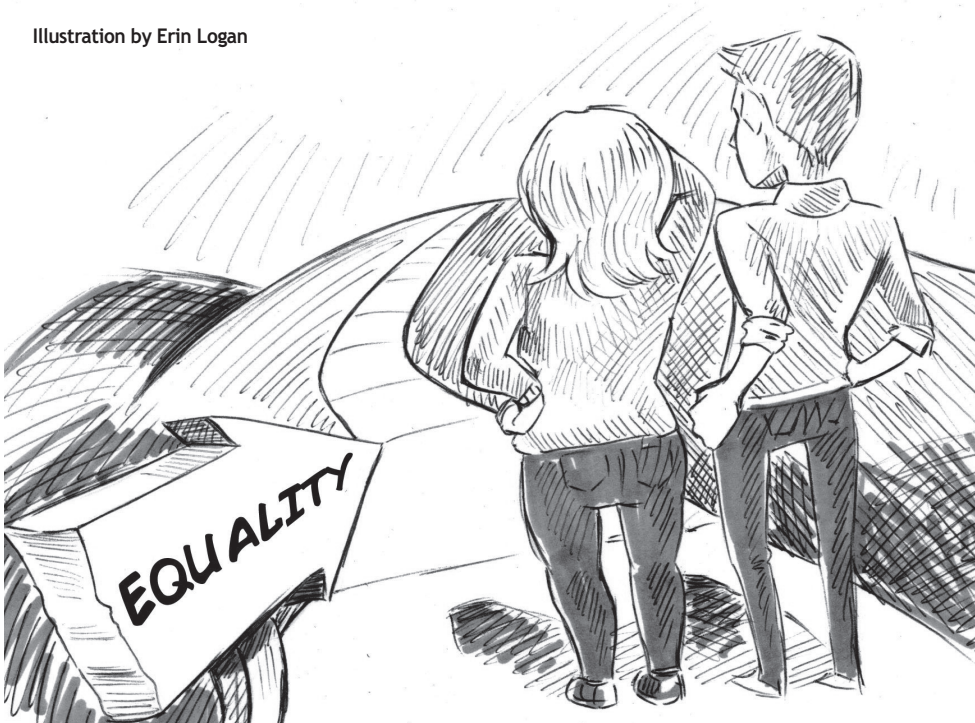
Last May, Salina and Hutchinson passed an ordinance that added sexual orientation to the city’s anti-discrimination law. The ordinance doesn’t allow landlords or employers to evict or fire people based on their sexuality. During the November election, the ordinance was voted to be repealed.

In Salina, 46 percent voted to not repeal it. That number was lowered to 42 percent in Hutchinson. Because of the decision to repeal the ordinance, the issue can’t be brought up to city commissioners for the next 10 years.

These numbers aren’t that low, but they could be higher. For those who voted in favor of the ordinance, thank you for opening your minds and believing in equality for everyone — not just a select few.

I have heard people say

Illustration by Erin Logan



that this ordinance forced people to act against their religious beliefs. My first question is what kind of religious beliefs say it’s OK to discriminate against someone whose sexuality differs from the status quo?

One of the Ten Commandments says “love thy neighbor.” It doesn’t say “love thy neighbor UNLESS he or she is gay.”

My next question is, has anyone read the Pledge of Allegiance? If I’m not mistaken, it reads “...one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” It doesn’t say to only give liberty and justice to those who are het-

erosexual.

The Declaration of Independence is another U.S. document that establishes our rights as Americans. It states, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

Folks, this was written in 1776. Thomas Jefferson couldn’t see the future, but could recognize the importance of equality as a characteristic of our country.

America has come a long way. Women can vote now;

black and white citizens can sit next to each other on the bus ... what else could we as citizens want? It seems that some people always have a problem with those who are different from them, no matter what the implications are.

Fifty years ago, people discriminated against women and those of a different race. These two populations had certain rights withheld and weren’t allowed to do everything that heterosexual, white males could.

Now, in 2012, while discrimination against these two groups is illegal, another group is being targeted: those

of a different sexual orientation. Some may think that we shouldn’t do anything about problems that don’t exist. But the truth of the matter is that discrimination based on sexual orientation is a real problem.

It isn’t only a problem among adults. Children are taking the blunt of the discrimination in schools as well. Suicides among those with an “out of the norm” sexual orientation are increasing; I can’t help but wonder, if society was more accepting of these people and willing to open their minds a little, would children find it easier to open up to their parents without the fear of being isolated?

Many people believe that being gay, lesbian or bisexual is a choice. However, extensive amounts of research indicate otherwise. Almost all of the theories suggest that homosexuality is attributed to the development of hormones.

During development, the hormones somehow shift from masculine (androgens) to feminine (estrogens) if male, and feminine to masculine if female. This research suggests that sexuality isn’t a choice: it’s biological.

Researchers who have examined the brains of heterosexuals versus homosexuals found differing brain regions between the two. Some examples are the suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN), the hypothalamus and the anterior commissure (AC). The SCN is a region involved with the brain’s circadian rhythms and sexual behavior

and is found to be more elongated in women; however, this region is also more elongated in homosexual men. Similar results were found with the hypothalamus and the AC. If you don’t believe me, educate yourself.

Whether people want to believe it or not, discrimination based on sexual orientation does exist today. Some recognize that being homosexual is a fact, not a choice and believe everyone should be treated equally; others call homosexuality a sin. Which ever viewpoint you take, I ask that you educate yourself and open your mind to other ideas.

I am a religious person. I go to church on Sundays and believe in God as my creator, but I do not believe in denying equality to people based on their sexual orientation.

Believing this does not mean you have to be homosexual or in favor of homosexuality; it simply means that you believe in treating everyone the same no matter who they are, what their gender or color is, what they believe in or who they date.

Our nation tells us “that all men are created equal,” that we have “certain unalienable rights,” and that there should be “liberty and justice for all.” Our creator tells us that we should “love thy neighbor” and “do wrong to no one.” There aren’t any ifs, ands or buts in these lines, but are they built in your beliefs?

Robin Helget is a 2012 K-State graduate. Please send comments to opinion@kstatecollegian.com.

Six-semester limit on residence hall living detrimental to university



Cully Galloway

Last week, many students received their notices of eviction from K-State’s Department of Housing and Dining services. This was done in an effort to alleviate the approximately 300 freshmen living in overflow housing.

As you may already know, a new policy has been enacted stating that students have only six semesters of eligibility in which they can live in the residence halls.

My initial reaction to this new policy was to fire up my torch, sharpen my pitchfork and march on Pittman Hall with the rest of the angry mob forming on campus. I was considering living in the residence halls for my senior year and keeping my job as a community assistant. Now that is no longer an option.

Truthfully, I understand

the logic of this decision. It’s important to provide incoming freshmen with a place to live on campus if that’s what they want to do. Also, students who have lived in the residence halls for six semesters ought to be more well-equipped to live off campus. However, there are some fairly significant problems with this new policy.

First of all, there are not nearly as many seniors living in the residence halls as there are freshmen. The amount of upperclassmen getting displaced by this limitation isn’t equal to the number of students in overflow housing.

Sure, it will help, but there will still be people who won’t get a spot on campus. Those in overflow may very well find themselves in hotels or off-campus apartment complexes for a while until a place in the residence halls opens up for them.

This new policy presents other difficulties as well. Until this year, (as the football program has definitely stolen the show) K-State’s claim to fame has been, I would argue, its housing and dining experi-

ence. The university was even mentioned earlier this year on the Today Show as a place for people to attend if they wanted to “live the good life.” They mentioned (on the Today Show, people!) how highly rated the residence halls and resident assistants are at K-State.

For me, living in the residence halls has been the best part about going to K-State. I know I’m in the minority here, as most people don’t plan on living in a dorm for their entire college career. The thing that makes it so special for me is the community. It’s a community built on people who experience life together, and it’s formed, in no small part, by students who return to the dorms year after year.

Removing upperclassmen from the residence halls also throws away traditions that many floors in the dorms have established. Upperclassmen often become de facto leaders in their communities. I know that’s true of my floor.

When I was a freshman, the seniors on my floor were an integral part of everything that happened. They initiated most of the social interaction,

especially at the start of the year, and were a huge part of making freshmen feel welcome.

But more than just being a key component in forming the

social community in the dorms, upperclassmen make the life of a resident assistant significantly easier. This is done in part by forming bonds with people in

Illustration by Yosuke Michishita



the community, but also by assisting in the enforcement of rules and serving as role models for freshmen. I know that sounds horrendously cliché, but it’s true nonetheless.

The truth is that an RA can’t be around all the time. Sometimes the older residents in the community need to step up into the position of authority. I know I often find myself telling guys on my floor that they can’t ride their bikes or longboards in the hallway or that they can’t throw frisbees or fly helicopters either.

K-State is so unique in that the residence halls are a place where many, though not all, want to live. Until they can figure out a way to either house more residents or clear far more space in the dorms, I don’t see the problem going away anytime soon.

Maybe sororities could be persuaded to let the hundreds of freshmen girls who rush each year live in the houses. One can dream.

Cully Galloway is a junior in creative writing. Please send comments to opinion@kstatecollegian.com.

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Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

		9		5		1	7	
				4		8		5
1					6		3	9
					3	2		
2	6						5	7
		4	8					
9	2		1					8
8		3		9				
	1	5		7		9		

Difficulty Level ★

Answer to the last Sudoku.

9	7	3	4	2	5	6	8	1
6	5	4	3	1	8	2	7	9
1	8	2	9	6	7	5	3	4
2	6	7	1	8	9	4	5	3
8	3	5	6	4	2	9	1	7
4	1	9	7	5	3	8	2	6
3	2	1	8	9	4	7	6	5
5	4	6	2	7	1	3	9	8
7	9	8	5	3	6	1	4	2

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2 Using many different colored and shaped lights, a house on the corner of Vattier Street and Manhattan Avenue shows holiday spirit Thursday night.

3 The Phi Delta Theta house lights up their letters on their fraternity house on Thursday night.

4 A house shines through the trees on the east side of campus Thursday night.

5 Purple and white colored lights decorate trees in front of the President's Residence on campus Thursday night.

6 Lights illuminate the Beta Theta Pi fraternity house Thursday night, complementing the other homes around Manhattan exhibiting the Christmas spirit with lights.

Museum of Modern Art announces exhibit, considers video games art



Ethan Hague

It was announced in November that the Museum of Modern Art plans to add 14 video games to its collection. The news has been met with some controversy amongst certain high-profile critics and bloggers.

Roger Ebert said in his April 16, 2010, Chicago Sun-Times blog post, "Video games cannot be art." And while Ebert may be a highly-valued critic in the world of cinema, he quite simply doesn't understand the artistry that goes into creating video games. He can't understand the emotion felt by gamers during a particularly touching narrative without having played them. However, Ebert is not alone in his opinion.

"No one 'owns' the game, so there is no artist, and therefore no work of art," said Jonathan Jones, blogger for The Guardian, in a Nov. 30 response to MoMA's addition of games.

General falsity of this claim aside, Jones makes the argument that anything created by a group of people as opposed

to a single person cannot be considered "art." What, then, could be considered modern art? Certainly not movies, as dozens or even hundreds of people come together to create a film. Nor could music, with the collaboration of writers, singers, engineers, etc.

Unfortunately for these critics, arguing against the qualification of video games as art is a losing battle. According to MoMA, they qualify. The real issue at hand is whether or not the right games were picked.

The games chosen were released from 1980 to 2009 and include classics such as "Pac-Man" and "Tetris," as well as newer titles like "EVE Online" and "Portal." The criteria for consideration included more than just the game's aesthetics.

According to Paola Antonelli, senior curator of the department of architecture and design at MoMA, in a Nov. 29 blog on their official website, they wanted games that showed aspects "from the elegance of code to the design of the player's behavior."

While it is important for a game to be coded well and have few bugs, I believe there are a few aspects that the games on the list are missing. Though I'm definitely no art critic, it seems art should sway the way a person thinks, or break ground in some fashion. If the games haven't been hugely influential on gamers, it

doesn't seem like they should be amongst notable artistic games.

There is also a lack of narrative storytelling in the games included. Some consider storytelling itself to be an art, yet narrative games are left out almost completely. And for all the advances in technology, the newer games on the list lack the realistic graphics most gamers look for.

So what should be left out? "Canabalt" has made almost no progress graphically in gaming since the early '90s, even though it was made in 2009. "Vib-ribbon" looks as if a toddler drew it.

What should be included on the list? Some of the ground-breakers that come to mind are "Super Mario Bros." or "The Legend of Zelda." As far as visually appealing narrative, a pretty good case could be made for "Mass Effect."

Fortunately, they may eventually be added. MoMA has stated they plan on having about 40 games in the exhibit in the future.

Ethan Hague is a junior in mass communication. Please send comments to edge@kstatecollegian.com.

Editor's Note: This article was completed as an assignment for a class in the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

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